

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

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R 241655Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5372

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BAVARIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: MUNICH 1583

SUMMARY. THREE DAYS BEFORE BAVARIAN LANDTAG ELECTION, CAMPAIGN REMAINS QUIET, GENERATING LITTLE EXCITEMENT, AND LITTLE HAS HAPPENDED TO MODIFY SITUATION DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. CSU ABSOLUTE MAJORITY APPEARS CERTAINTY, THOUGH PARTY COULD LOSE PER CENT OR TWO; SPD IS EXPECTED TO BE WITHIN ONE OR TWO PER CENT OF ITS 1970 TOTAL; IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT FDP WILL SURPASS FIVE PER CENT MARK AND THEREFORE WIN REPRESENTATION IN LANDTAG, THOUGH WHETHER IT WILL INCREASE ITS PERCENTAGE SIGNIFICANTLY IS OPEN QUESTION.

1) EVENT COMING CLOSEST TO GENERATING EXCITEMENT WAS READING OF PASTORAL LETTER IN BAVARIAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OCTOBER 20 URGING  
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THE FLOCK TO VOTE CSU. SPD AND FDP HAVE UNSURPRISINGLY DENOUNCED THIS AS CHURCH MEDDLING IN POLITICAL MATTERS, AND FDP HAS TRIED

TO USE IT TO COUNTER CRITICAISM OF ITS HAMBURG CHURCH PAPER. FRANCONIAN SPD CHAIRMAN FRIEDRICH TOLD US PASTORAL LETTER WILL MOBILIZE SPD WORKERS TO GET OUT THE VOTE. IN PRACTICE, WHILE SOME OF THE FAITHFUL MIGHT VOTE CSU INSTEAD OF STAYING HOME, AND SOME OF THE LESS FAITHFUL MIGHT VOTE SPD OR FDP WHO OTHERWISE MIGHT NOT HAVE, LETTER WILL PROBABLY NOT NOTICEABLY AFFECT THE BALANCE.

2) PARTY LEADERS ARE BEING MOST CAUTIOUS IN THEIR FORECASTS. IN OCTOBER 23 ABENDZEITUNG INTERVIEW FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS SAID CSU MINIMUM AIM WAS TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY, AND IT HAF REALISTIC PROSPECT OF REPEATING ITS 1970 VOTE (56.4 PER CENT). ASKED IF PARTY MIGHT NOT BETTER 1970 TOTAL, HE COMMENTED THAT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATIONS BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONDUCTED MIGHT LEAD TO SLIGHT LOSSES HERE AND THERE. (SEVERAL GROUPS OF LEAST POPULATED KREISE HAVE BEEN COMBINED, LEADING TO SOME DISGRUNTLEMENT IN TOWNS THAT HAVE LOST THEIR STATUS AS KREIS CENTER. SINCE THESE ARE BY DEFINITION SMALL, HOWEVER, TOTAL IMPACT SHOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT).

3) AT OCTOBER 24 PRESS CONFERENCE, DR. VOGEL STATED ALL POLLS SPD HAS COMMISSIONED SHOW SOME SPD GAINS (FROM ITS 33.3 PER CENT) AND CSU LOSSES. HE ADMITTED THAT PREDICTION OF SPD GAINS DID NOT APPLY "IN TOWNS OF OVER ONE MILLION." HE ADDED THAT POLLS WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT ON FDP, SOME PREDICTING MAINTENANCE OF ITS 5.5 PER CENT, SOME PREDICTING GAINS, BUT NONE ANTICIPATING LOSSES. FRIEDRICH TOLD US HE ALSO THOUGHT PARTY SHOULD GAIN ENOUGH ELSEWHERE, PARTICULARLY IN FRANCONIA, TO COMPENSATE FOR ANTICIPATED LOSSES IN MUNICH. HE EXPECTED SPD TO LOSE GROUND IN HESSE AND COMMENTED THAT IF, AS HE THOUGHT, IT WOULD WIN HALF PER CENT OR SO IN BAVARIA, THIS WOULD BE FIRST ELECTION SINCE 1972 IN WHICH SPD HAS GAINED STRENGTH.

4) FDP'S ERTL, IN OCTOBER 24 ABENDZEITUNG INTERVIEW, PREDICTED SEVEN TO EIGHT PER CENT VOTE. WHILE FOCUSSING ITS ATTACKS MAINLY AGAINST CSU, PARTY HAS ALSO TRIED TO DISTANCE ITSELF SOMEWHAT FROM SPD IN ITS CAMPAIGNING. MIXED REACTIONS IT HAS ENCOUNTERED WERE EXEMPLIFIED AT MEETINGS HELD AT OR NEAR RAILROAD STATIONS DURING STOPS MADE BY FDP SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TRAIN OCTOBER 18.

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GENSCHER, SECRETARY GENERAL BANGAMANN, ERTL, LEADING CANDIDATE HAMM-BRUECKER AND OTHER CANDIDATES, ACCOMPANIED BY PRESS (AND REPORTING OFFICER), RODE SIX-CAR TRAIN FEATURING GOERING'S PRIVATE CAR FOR DAY OF WHISTLE STOPS. RECEPTION RANGED FROM RALLY IN NUERNBERG WHICH ATTRACTED SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE OF THOUSAND OR SO, TO SMALL BUT VERY WARM WELCOME AT NEUMARKT, SMALL CROWDS AT AUGSBURG AND REGENSBURG COMPOSED MAINLY OF LOCAL CANDIDATES AND TRAIN PASSENGERS, AND NOISY COUNTER-DEMONSTRATON AT COUNTRY TOWN WHERE ANGRY FARMERS DROWNED OUT SPEECHES WITH THEIR TRACTOR HORNS. ALL MOST OBSERVERS ARE

REALLY AGREED UPON IS THAT FDP WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY FIVE PER CENT.

5) CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WHO HAS BEEN DRAWING WELL (10,000 AT WUERZBURG, FOR EXAMPLE) WILL MAKE HIS TENTH APPEARANCE IN BAVARIAN CAMPAIGN OCTOBER 25 AT FINAL SPD WIND-UP RALLY IN MUNICH'S MARIENPLATZ. NATIONAL FIGURES HAVE BEEN BIGGEST DRAWING CARDS FOR ALL PARTIES: SCHMIDT AND BRANDT FOR SPD, STRAUSS, AND TO LESSER EXTENT CARSTENS AND KOHL FOR CSU/CDU. INTERESTINGLY, RECEPTIVITY TO CARSTENS SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASED FOLLOWING STRAUSS' COMMENTS ON CDU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATES. THE THREE FRONT-RUNNING CANDIDATES, GOPPEL, VOGEL AND HAMM-BRUECKER, SEEM TO BE HAVING LESS IMPACT.

6) THIS BEING BAVARIA, CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED ON STRAUSS AND ON HIS FUTURE INTENTIONS. STRAUSS STATED FLATLY IN ABENDZEITUNG INTERVIEW THAT HE WILL RUN IN 1976 FOR BUNDESTAG AND THAT HIS PLACE IS IN BONN. HE EXPLICITLY DID NOT EXCLUDE, HOWEVER, AN EVENTUAL RETURN TO MUNICH. IN THIS CONNECTION CSU LOWER FRANCONIAN CHAIRMAN MEYER TOLD US STRAUSS MAY MAKE MAJOR DECISION IN SIX MONTHS OR SO. STRAUSS, HE SAID, EXPECTS MAJOR RECESSION IN GERMANY BY THEN, AND IF IT DEVELOPS, HE PLANS REMAIN IN BONN AND COOPERATE WITH SCHMIDT TO COPE WITH CRISIS. IF ECONOMIC CRISIS DOES NOT DEVELOP, THEN SCHMIDT WILL PROBABLY BE UNBEATABLE IN 1976, AND STRAUSS WILL CONSIDER "RETREAT TO BAVARIAN REDOUBT." VALDES

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